



THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR®

~~Christmas Around the World Tour~~

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BRILLIANT BOYS CHOIR LIGHTS UP THE HOLIDAYS WITH SONG!

"The packed auditorium was filled with an audience of several hundred listeners of all ages - and what an experience it was! Discipline, precision and poise were the hallmarks of THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR performance." ~ Des Moines Register

"The finely blended, exquisitely balanced MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR can sing with as much delicacy as anyone, but no other ensemble can sound this strong!" ~ St. Louis Post-Dispatch

"If indeed there is such a thing as a heavenly chorus, it must sound like THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR!" ~ St. Joseph News & Press

"Under the direction of Choirmaster and Conductor Leonid Baklushin, [The MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR] quickly won the hearts of the audience...the sopranos sang into the stratosphere with flutelike clarity, never once lapsing into shrillness." ~ Vero Beach Press Journal.

"With close and smoothly flowing inner harmonies, THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR illustrates its talents and skills at their very best." ~ Anchorage Daily News.

Founded in 1957, this choir is among Russia's most prestigious all-male choirs. In Moscow, members of the choir attend a special school called The Moscow Boys Capella that provides both general education and musical training. Being selected as a member of the touring company of **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** is no easy feat. Hand-picked from over 400 students, these highly talented youngsters have the voices of angels. However, they must also have the discipline to match their talents. There is a level of honor for these boys to be members of the choir, but there are no lifestyle advantages. They must work and study like everyone else. The boys traditionally begin their life in music as early as age 5, but are not allowed to perform for audiences until age 9.



The commitment and dedication displayed by **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** to their art truly raises the bar of the modern choral experience. Despite the strict discipline and rigors of touring, there is a strong family atmosphere present when **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** is on tour. Mr. Leonid Baklushin, Choir Master and Conductor of **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR**, tries to make the boys realize that they are giving something very special to their audiences each time they perform. Over the years, he has watched as the boys grow up, get married, and have children of their own. In many ways, Mr. Baklushin is a mentor and father figure to the boys as they develop their musical skills and life paths.

The driving force which has propelled the choir to the success they enjoy today can also be attributed to the work of Mrs. Ninel Kambourg, Choir Mistress, and Artistic Director for **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** for over thirty years. It was in 1966 that Mrs. Ninel Kambourg became Artistic Director for the choir and under her direction the choir grew and developed until their reputation became highly regarded both in Russia and abroad. A native to Russia, Mrs. Kambourg was an extremely accomplished individual. She was a graduate of the Russian Music Academy and, for her body of work; the Russian government bestowed the coveted “Merited Worker of Arts for Russia” award upon her. This is an honor given only to a very few, outstanding artists who make great contributions in the development of arts and culture. Under her direction, the choir mastered the most complicated works of Russian, European and American composers. In addition to her work conducting and instructing **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR**, Mrs. Kambourg was a lecturer, teacher, and author of many articles published in musical encyclopedias and other publications including *Musical Life*. Mrs. Kambourg also wrote several of the musical arrangements that the choir still performs today.

Mrs. Kambourg passed away just prior to the 2002 US Tour, which was dedicated to her memory by the choir. Her work remains the cornerstone of **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR’S** incredible sound and her musical signature is still legible in the high standards of performance this outstanding group of young men sets with each passing year. In January 2005, the choir again honored Mrs. Kambourg by dedicating their performances for the annual Gala at the House of Teachers in Moscow to her memory.



The baton of Artistic Director has formally passed to Choir Master Leonid Baklushin. Heir apparent as Artistic Director, Mr. Baklushin was under Mrs. Kambourg's tutelage from a very young age. He rose in the ranks to become a truly gifted tenor, arranger, and conductor. He has appeared in many operas including *La Boheme* and *Carmen* at the Stanislavski Music Theatre and in B.A. Pokrovsky's production of *Vain Gold* at the Moscow Chamber Theatre. In 1988, Mr. Baklushin graduated from the Music College at the Moscow Conservatory and received his degree in bassoon and conducting. In 1993, he graduated from the Moscow Conservatory, where he studied under S. Kalinin, with a Master's Degree in conducting. In 1991, Mr. Baklushin became the Choir Master of **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR**, an honor of which he is deeply proud. In 1999, he was awarded a Medal of Honor for his work in the arts by the Russian government.

At the culmination of their 1999 North American Tour, Mr. Baklushin was honored to meet President Bill Clinton in a private audience when the Choir performed at the White House (see details on pages seven and eight). Mr. Baklushin says of the experience, "This was an unforgettable tour with the White House [performance] being the best finale anyone could dream of!" In 2004, he was privileged to be appointed the conductor and ambassador of The Novospassky Monastery Chorus, who are famous in Moscow for performing Russian Orthodox music for audiences around the world. Mr. Baklushin traveled with them on their 2004 tour of Finland and the Novospassky Chorus performed with **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** Gabriel Faure's *Requiem* in April of 2006. That same year, Mr. Baklushin was honored to be awarded the Order of Sergei Radonezhsky in the 3rd Degree for his work benefiting the Russian Orthodox Church. In 2008, Mr. Baklushin was awarded a special medal called "Our Heritage," named for the Russian Composer Georgy Sviridov. This award is given by an organization called Orthodox Russia and is bestowed upon artists with a high level of dedication to Russian Orthodox musical tradition and heritage.

In addition to all of this, Mr. Baklushin has traveled the world sharing his music with the people of such countries as Spain, France, Germany, Sweden, Finland, England, Greece, and South Korea. With his youthful exuberance and elegant conducting style, Mr. Baklushin is guiding **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** to new heights in the musical world.



An important part of the choir's activities has been their participation in operatic productions which include Bizet's Carmen, Puccini's La Boheme, and Tchaikovsky's Queen of Spades. In 2005, the choir, under direction of Valeri Polyansky, recorded Alexandr Grechaninov's Sister Beatrix as well as Dmitri Shostakovich's Songs About Forests. **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** premiered in a performance of Songs About Forests on Russia's "Culture TV" dedicated to the memory of Mr. Shostakovich. Their repertoire is varied and extensive, including works by contemporary Russian composers as well as Russian, American, and European classics. The Choir performs works by composers such as Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Rachmaninov, and Bernstein. Additionally, the choir performs religious compositions by Russian, American, and European composers as well as popular Russian folk songs.

THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR enjoys an international reputation for excellence. They have appeared in a Command Performance at The Royal Albert Hall in London for members of the British Royal Family. The choir has toured South Korea, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, and Holland, where they performed in the Stanislavski Theatre's opera production of Boris Godunov by Mussorgsky. Soloists from **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** performed in Boris Godunov again in 2007, at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. This production was directed by world famous Russian film director, Alexander Sokurov, and was a very prestigious event for the Choir's soloists. In 2004, the choir participated in Jubilee Concerts dedicated to Alfred Schnittke at the Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatory, which is among the most prestigious venues for classical music performances in Moscow today. In 2005, members of **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** were invited, once again, to take part in Yuri Grigorovich's ballet Spartacus at the Kremlin Palace of Congresses. They originally performed in its premiere in 2003.

The year 2007 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Moscow Boys Capella, the school at which the boys study their craft, and there were many concerts and celebrations surrounding this momentous event. Some of these included performances in a Jubilee Concert in the city of Volgograd, where they performed Generation Without War. They participated in a Gala concert and party dedicated to the composer Aleksandr Klevitsy at the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow. They also performed a concert at the Slobodkin Concert Center located on the famed Arbat Square in Moscow. Here, they performed Requiem by Gabriel Faure, and in another Gala



performance, they performed the same program at the beautiful Roman Catholic Cathedral in Moscow. The Choir also performed this program at the Gnesin Russian Academy of Music in honor of their 50th Anniversary. They also performed *The Symphony of Psalms* by famed composer Igor Stravinsky at Rachmaninov Concert Hall. These, along with many other special events, hailed a half-century of artistic excellence, awards, accomplishments, and touring for **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR**. Sharing their beautiful and transcendent music with the world has been the hallmark of the Choir's success, and they look forward to many more years of carrying on their tradition of excellence well into the future.

In addition to these activities, **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** are very active in Choral Festivals, performing in the Moscow Music Festival dedicated to Contemporary Russian Music as well as the International Festival of Boys Choirs and at the Festival of Choral Music in 2007. In the year 2007 alone, **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** performed many and varied compositions in almost a dozen different Choral festivals, taking top awards in most of the competitions in which they participated. In this same year, they also participated in the world premiere of *The Christmas Oratorio* by the Orthodox Bishop Illarion. Bishop Illarion is the head of the International Relations Department of the Russian Orthodox Church and participation in the world premiere of such an important work was indeed an honor for **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR**. These performances took place at various Russian Orthodox Churches in New York City, Boston, MA, and Washington, DC. **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** travelled to Washington, DC to participate in this very prestigious event.

While at home in Russia, the choir's activities are numerous. They have performed in ceremonies for Russia's prestigious National Cinema Awards - only the most popular performers in Russia are invited to participate in this highly publicized event. They performed in the Moscow Festival of Choirs, dedicated to the 850th anniversary of the founding of Moscow, plus many performances at the Olympic Hall in Moscow, and at the Moscow Conservatory with the Moscow Symphony Orchestra. They are regularly featured on Russian television programs dedicated to the work of **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR**, including the popular Russian TV show "Steps."



The choir has made numerous appearances at the Bolshoi Theatre, the Moscow State Duma and at the Kremlin, where they were honored in performances with the Presidential Orchestra on several occasions. They have performed many times at both the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall and the Pushkin Literary Museum. Upon returning to Russia at the conclusion of their 2003 US Tour, the choir performed many concerts at the Kremlin's Palace of Congresses. In these concerts, they performed their beautiful rendition of *Ave Maria* with the Presidential Orchestra and acclaimed Bolshoi Opera soloist, Nikolai Baskov. The choir has given recitals at the Central House of Literature Workers where Russia's cultural elite share ideas, the equivalent of the American Algonquin Round Table of the early twentieth century. The choir has performed at the brand new Moscow House of Music, which is a beautiful and modern facility that has hosted such musical superstars as Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras.

In 2008, the Choir's activities continued to expand, both in Moscow and in other cities across Russia. They continued their work on *The Christmas Oratorio*, this time performing this selection with the Grand Symphony Tchaikovsky Orchestra and many famed Russian opera soloists in Moscow. They performed at the International Choral Winter Festival in the city of Petrozadovsk, they were the featured performers in *Hymn to Love*, a selection by Carl Nilsen, among the Triad of famous Scandinavian Composers, Edvard Grieg, Jean Sibelius, and Carl Nilsen. The Choir performed *Hymn to Love* with conductor Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, and the State Academic Symphony Capella at the Grand Hall of Moscow Conservatory. They also performed in the Sozvuchie Choral Festival in the city of Sergiev Posad and in the Moscow Choral Festival, "The Voices of Spring." They participated in a tour of cities along the Volga River, where they performed at many venues. While on this tour, they were actually transported by ship on the Volga River from city to city. This was a marvelous adventure for **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR**, and one they will not soon forget!

In 2005, the choir was invited by the Municipality of Moscow to perform in a grand concert at Red Square for International Children's Day where they performed their renditions of *Ave Maria* and *Evening Bells* with the famous tenor Andrea Bocelli. In March of 2006, the Choir toured extensively within Russia, performing in the Pskov region of Russia which is in the Northwest section of the country.



In 2007, **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** toured in the Karelia region of Russia, which is also located in the Northwest region of Russia. They performed recent concerts at the Russian Academy of Music, the 8th Annual Kursk Music Festival, and at the New Jerusalem Monastery which was founded in the 15th Century, and is among the most revered monastery in all of Russia.

Produced by IAI Presentations, Inc., **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** embarked upon their premier US Tour in October of 1993 and played to standing ovations, receiving rave reviews across the nation. This 40-city tour took them all over the United States, including a week in Alaska and (much to the delight of the choir...) a performance at Disneyland in Anaheim, California, where they were treated to a day enjoying the "happiest place on Earth!" During their 1996 US Tour, in addition to their highly successful and critically acclaimed return, they were invited to perform at the Crystal Cathedral in Southern California for Rev. Robert Schuller's TV program *The Hour of Power*. Their performance was broadcast both nationally and internationally and was seen by a world-wide television audience. They were featured on the CBS Christmas Eve Holiday Special, which was broadcast throughout North America.

The year 1997 found **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** on their third North American Tour and, once again, they treated audiences to their incredible sound in cities throughout the US. On this tour, the Group visited Canada. The performances for Canadian audiences were the first ever by **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** and they performed to standing ovations and enthusiastic audiences. They returned to Canada during their 2005 North American tour only to find audiences there just as passionate, and they return once again to Canada in on their 2009 North American Tour. In February 2004, they debuted in South Korea where they won the hearts of the people there as they have done the world over. During their US tour later that year, **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** recorded a performance for National Public Radio for airing on that network's program, "Performance Today."

THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR brought their initial *Christmas Around the World Tour* to a triumphant conclusion in December of 1999 with an invitation from the White House to perform for President Clinton, the First Family and their friends at a private Holiday Gala.



After being greeted warmly by White House Staff, where they were treated to a special tour of the White House, visiting many rooms usually closed to the public, the choir performed their Holiday repertoire in the Main Foyer of the White House before the State Reception steps.

As guests of the Clintons entered the Gala, the magnificent sound of **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** filled the halls and all present were awe-struck by the tremendous musical gifts this choir imparted. When the concert was over, the choir was treated to punch and cookies, and then came the truly thrilling part of the evening - a private audience with the President of the United States!

The choir was ushered into the Diplomatic Reception Room where they performed several selections, including *America, the Beautiful* for President Clinton, First Lady Hilary Rodham-Clinton and their daughter Chelsea Clinton beneath the image of our first President, George Washington. President Clinton then addressed the Group, pointing out the historic significance of a choir from Russia performing at the White House, and how he hoped to visit them someday in Russia. It was a truly magical evening, one that the choir and those present will always remember!

On their 2005 North American Tour, **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** performed in a Holiday television special for HDNet Television. This television show, *Christmas Around the World*, featured the choir in performance and is now broadcast nationwide each year throughout the United States on HDNet Television during the Christmas season. Due to the enormous success of the broadcasts, this performance is now available for purchase on DVD. **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR** *Christmas Around the World* DVD can be purchased, along with their CD collection, at all public performances in the US or, on-line at www.iaipresentations.com. Their work with HDNet exemplifies **THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR's** innovative spirit and displays their hallmark cutting-edge style. The significance of becoming among the very first boys choir to be broadcast in the new and exciting medium of high-definition television is a tribute to their tremendous talents and will no doubt bring more awareness of and accolades for this truly 21st Century ensemble!



The choir's renown will continue to grow under the guiding hand of IAI Presentations, Inc., as they begin their Twelfth North American Tour in November of this year, presenting a special Holiday Program to audiences throughout the Christmas Season. The powerful sound of this all-male choir will perform music of the Season from around the world. Audiences will be musically transported to far away places including Russia, Europe, the Americas, and more as the choir showcases Christmas Classics as well as new and vibrant pieces, many sung in their language of origin. Featured will be favorites from previous tours including Russian and Western Classical Compositions, rousing covers of traditional Russian Folk Songs, as well as many whimsical holiday treats such as *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, *Jingle Bells*, and their hauntingly beautiful rendition of the holiday classic, *Silent Night*.

Currently available online (at www.iaipresentations.com) and on their theatre tours is their DVD, *CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD*, and their three CD recordings, including their latest release, *CRESCENDO!* along with their two previous recordings, *CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD* and *THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR*, all of which feature Holiday music, Russian Folk Songs, as well as classical and traditional selections from past and present tours.

THE MOSCOW BOYS CHOIR will perform at _____ on _____.
Performance time (s) is/are _____ and tickets can be purchased at the box office, on-line at _____ or by telephone by calling _____.

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